

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

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STB Docket No. EP 665 (Sub-No. 1)

RAIL TRANSPORTATION OF GRAIN, RATE REGULATION REVIEW

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LETTER
IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION'S
PETITION TO MODIFY PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports the petition of the National Grain and Feed Association to extend the schedule in this proceeding for 60 days. This proceeding is important for grain shippers and producers because currently available Surface Transportation Board (Board) rate appeal procedures do not work for them. Thus, commenters in this proceeding need the extra time to thoroughly evaluate potentially workable alternatives.

Sincerely,



Bruce Blanton

Director, Transportation Services Division
Agricultural Marketing Service